

Serial No. 10/729,974

Attorney Docket No. 06-003

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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 and 14 are pending. Claims 9-13 have been canceled. Claim 14 is new. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The title was said to be non-descriptive. The title has been amended to be more descriptive.

The first sentence of the paragraph that begins on page 5, line 1, has been amended to include the following phrase: "each of which functions as an electrical wire." This amendment is supported at least by original claim 2, Fig. 1, and Fig. 3B.

Claim 8 was amended to correct a typographical error. The dependency of claim 8 was changed from claim 8 to claim 1.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ueno. In addition, claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno. The applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The applicants are attaching a declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 showing that the present invention was invented prior to the filing date (November 5, 2002) of the Ueno patent. Therefore, the Ueno patent is not prior art, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Attached to the declaration is an internal communication document used by the assignee company. The document includes a disclosure of the present invention in the Japanese language. The document has several date stamps on it, all of which are in October of 2002. The declaration explains that the second date stamp from the right is a date stamp made by Mr. Hisada, one of

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the inventors and one of the declarants. This date stamp indicates the date on which the disclosure was submitted to the assignee company's intellectual property department for possible patenting. The disclosure resulted in the Japanese patent application that serves as a basis for the priority claim in this application.

Since the disclosure of the attached declaration is dated prior to the US filing date of the Ueno patent, the Ueno patent is not prior art under section 102(e), and the rejections that are based on the Ueno patent should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Isawa *et al.* The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

In the Japanese publication to Isawa *et al.*, a film (insulation layer) 3 is formed on the entire surface of the metal board 2. See Fig. 1b. Also disclosed is a copper foil 4, which is formed on the insulation layer 3. See Fig. 1c. Electric circuits 5, including bonding electrodes 6, are formed on both sides of the film layer 3 and entirely cover the board. See Fig. 1d. Also, a solder resist 7 is printed on the entire board surface, including the electric circuits 5 on the film layer 3. See Fig. 1e.

Thus, the metal board 2 functions only as a substrate. The metal board does not function as a metal wire. Further, the solder resist 7 is applied on the electric circuits 5 or the like and not on the metal board. Therefore, the structure disclosed by Isawa *et al.* is distinctly different from the structure recited in claim 1, and claim 1 and its dependents cannot be anticipated by Isawa *et al.*

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isawa *et al.* The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

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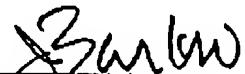
Claim 4 depends on claim 1. As mentioned above, claim 1 cannot be anticipated by the publication of Isawa *et al.* Therefore, the rejection of claim 4 should be withdrawn.

Claim 14 is new. Claim 14 is supported at least at page 5, lines 17 and 18, and by Fig. 1. Claim 14 depends indirectly on claim 1 and is thus considered to be patentable for the reasons given above.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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